



PEARL HARBOR NAVAL SHIPYARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Pearl Harbor Shipyard Sailor Wins Statewide Military Blood Program Award

**By Liane Nakahara
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PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii – A Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Sailor was named the 2008 best armed services unit blood program coordinator in the state of Hawaii at a ceremony Feb. 6 at Fort Shafter.

Shipyard military and civilian employees donated more than 2,000 units of blood in 2008 to the Blood Bank of Hawaii and through the Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP).

Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (SW) Raymond Hoke won first place in the Top Unit Coordinator category.

"It's not just me doing this all by myself," said Hoke, who has just finished his first year as the Shipyard's blood donor program coordinator. "This award is because of all the people at the Shipyard who support the blood program."

Hoke organized four separate blood drives at the Shipyard throughout 2008. The drives resulted in a total donation of 250 usable units for the Tripler Army Medical Center (TAMC) Blood Donor Center.

“People like Ray are hard to come by. He does a lot of work for us to set everything up,” said Michelle Lele of the TAMC Blood Donor Center. “Then he takes those extra steps to do things like talk to the commander to get time off for the people that donate.”

Hoke learned he won the award in late January. “Of course it feels good to win an award, but it’s much more rewarding because it’s for a good cause,” he said.

ASBP’s mission is to provide blood products to all armed services members and their families during times of peace and war.

Lele said that the Shipyard consistently donates a lot of blood in program drives. She recalled the previous Shipyard coordinator, Boatswain’s Mate 1st Class Nathan Ellsworth, won second place in the same category for 2007.

Ellsworth and Hoke came up with an incentive for Shipyard military personnel to donate blood at the drives. Deputy Shipyard Commander Capt. Richard Verbeke approved the 24-hour special liberty incentive in early 2008.

“We are always looking for good coordinators and we are fortunate to have Ray as one of them,” said Lele.

The top 26 awardees were honored at the ceremony. Plaques shaped like blood drops were presented to each recipient by Brig. Gen. Steven Jones, commander of Pacific Regional Maintenance Command and TAMC.

“It’s the volunteers, the hard work, the unit commanders, the points of contact, and the civilian staff that make the program successful,” said Jones.

According to Jones, his staff at TAMC would have a difficult time doing their jobs without the help of the blood program and the donors. He explained that it would cost more than \$2 million dollars a year to purchase all of the blood products used at TAMC.

The first ASBP blood drive for the Shipyard in 2009 took place Feb. 5. The next drive will be held sometime in April.

Hundreds of Shipyard workers also donate blood outside of the Armed Services Blood Program. Figures from the Blood Bank of Hawaii show that Shipyard employees donated 1,820 units of blood last year.

Because blood can be separated into platelets, plasma, and red blood cells, a donation of a single pint of blood can potentially help three people.

“There are about 5,460 patients in Hawaii whose lives were directly impacted by the Pearl Harbor Navy Shipyard team,” said Jonette Correia, Blood Bank field representative for donor services.

In a letter to Shipyard Command Master Chief David Lajoie, Correia said, “Thank you for being the leaders, the movers and shakers, and the people who make things happen. We look forward to saving more lives in 2009 with Pearl Harbor Navy Shipyard.”

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard is the largest industrial employer in the state of Hawaii with a combined civilian and military workforce of about 4,700. It has an operating budget of \$620 million, of which more than \$390 million is payroll for civilian employees. The Shipyard, strategically located in the Pacific Ocean, is a full-service naval shipyard and regional maintenance center for the U.S. Navy’s surface ships and submarines.

For more information on Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, visit <http://www.phnsy.navy.mil>.